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FROM: Chad D. Tillman  
DIRECT DIAL: 704-554-5032

COMMENTS:

I hereby certify that the Preliminary Amendment sent herewith in Application Serial Number 09/970,448 is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO at the above fax number on the above date.

Respectfully submitted,

*(Chad D. Tillman)*

Chad D. Tillman  
U.S. Reg. No. 38,634

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Luc NGUYEN ) Group Art Unit: 2819  
Serial No.: 09/970,448 )  
Filed: 10/02/2001 ) Examiner:  
For: REAL TIME TRAFFIC )  
ENGINEERING OF DATA- )  
NETWORKS )  
Docket No.: 10657-31268 )

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as set forth herein prior to examination on the merits.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-16 and add claims 17-30 as follows.

17. (NEW) A method for central control and intelligent routing of data network traffic, including demands, each demand having a routing through the network and a priority value based on business attributes and criterions, comprising the steps of:

continuously collecting data from the network components;  
determining congestions and error conditions;